

SCI-TECH

# Namibia sees steady downward trend in rhino and elephant poaching

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BY REUTERS



Cases of rhino and elephant poaching declined significantly last year, said the Namibian government. File image.

**Image:** 123RF/SANDY PRETORIUS

Namibia saw a continued downward trend in rhino and elephant poaching last year after stepping up patrols and sharply increasing fines, the government said on Thursday.

Citing intensified intelligence operations by authorities and collaboration between the government and the private sector, environment ministry spokesperson Romeo

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Namibia is home to the second-largest white rhino population in the world after SA, according to non-profit organisation Save the Rhino Trust. It also holds a third of the world's remaining black rhinos.

The country is also home to the only free-roaming black rhinos left in the world, who are growing in number after nearly becoming extinct some years ago from poaching and drought. Save the Rhino Trust estimates that there are more than 200 free-roaming black rhinos in Namibia, mainly in the northeast.

Rhino poaching has plagued Southern Africa for decades, especially in SA and Botswana, leading to anti-poaching programmes, including dehorning and strict policing.



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